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New Buffalo Times

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PHOTO OF SHOVELS IN THE GROUND FOR PHASE ONE OF THE MICHIGAN PORTION OF THE MARQUETTE GREENWAY BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Dyngus Day cause for celebrating in La Porte

BY STAN MADDUX

Not even a 30-minute heavy rain storm seemed to make a dent in the number of people turning out Monday, April 1, for the annual Dyngus Day celebration in La Porte.

Despite the temporary wet conditions, people were still getting on and off several charter buses providing free rides from 4-11 p.m. to the 11 bars on this year's route.

Participating tavern owners annually pay for the bus service.

Lena Moffett of La Porte was on one bus where the driver allowed riders to choose the music played while they were on board.

By 4 p.m., Moffett was taking a bus to her third bar with plans to visit every one on the route.

"I've only been to two, so far, but the night is still early," she said.

"It's the best time. You get to bounce from bar to bar and enjoy yourself, said Sydney Watson, 24, also of La Porte.

It was the second Dyngus Day in a row for Watson, who grew up knowing about the festivities from her mother telling her stories about going out to celebrate.

According to history, Dyngus Day is rooted in Poland centuries ago when people feasted on food and drink after fasting during lent.

The food is just as much as a tradition as alcoholic beverages during the celebration in La Porte organized by tavern owners with a designated bar hopping route 37 years ago.

Howie Hunsley, owner of Dick's Bar at 912 Lincolnway, said he began cooking polish food at 6:30 a.m. to get a jump on the rush of dine-in and take out orders he expected to receive after opening his doors at 11 a.m.

Hunsley said he ordered 180 pounds of Kielbasa sausage, 40 pounds of dried Kluski noodles, 24 gallons of sauerkraut and 20 gallons of mashed potatoes in advance for Dyngus Day.

Two hours after opening, he wasn't disappointed but worried about having enough until closing.

"I already went through almost 100 pounds of Kielbasa," he said.

Shelly Tanksley, owner of Burger Bar & Grill at 821 E. Lincolnway, said the number of late morning customers at her establishment was at least three times the amount for a typical Monday.

She ordered enough cabbage rolls, mashed potatoes and bread in advance to feed about 400 dine-in and take out customers.

Tanksley said she also had at least three times as many kegs of beer and other alcoholic beverages in stock than what she usually has on a normal week day.

"We're ready for anybody that's thirsty," she said.

Two of her customers, Stephanie Hoffman of La Porte and Taikasha Peterson of Michigan City began their time at Burger Bar & Grill by having two shots of liquor and glass of beer apiece to wind down after finishing their shifts at nearby Alpha Baking.

They also ordered chicken strips and French fries they dipped in cheese sauce.

"We're ready to enjoy," Peterson said.

They weren't planning to go bar hopping, though, because of having get up early again the next morning and report to work.

Adding to the Dyngus Day festivities were the usual buttons given to each customer to pin on their shirts for displaying which bars they had visited.

Kim Heroldt, owner of Shooter's Bar & Grill at 201 Washington Street, also draped a necklace of red and white beads over the heads of each customer welcomed inside.

By mid-afternoon, Heroldt already had a good sized crowd listening to the music of a DJ before the anticipated rush of customers.

"After five o'clock, it usually gets wall to wall people," she said.

Hunsley, president of the Dyngus Day Committee, said the crowds are not quite as jam packed as they once were but the holiday remains one of the busiest days for local tavern owners.

"Most definitely. It's always busy," he said.

The populace "sees" what you appear to be, however a close inspection of your acts, show what you really are. The manipulator fears his carefully cultivated reputation will be found to be evil. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
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Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
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Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
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DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Up and down honey production in Michigan and Indiana

BY STAN MADDUX

Honey production was up 15 percent in Michigan last year but down 16 percent in Indiana.

The difference in yields from both states is typical for an industry largely dependent on weather conditions for production.

Phillip Janik, Jr. said the bees in the 200 colonies he placed throughout La Porte County produced a lot of honey in 2023 despite last year being a down year for production in Indiana.

He said early spring rains were enough in his area outside Michigan City to produce flowers and trees full of nectar.

He said it also didn't rain when it was warm enough for the bees to want to go out and harvest the nectar used for making honey in their hives.

Janik, who also refers to himself as "The Hoosier Bee Man," explained honey bees are not willing to venture out and collect nectar in below 50 degree temperatures or when it's raining.

"It's a timing thing. I really, truly is. It's all in the timing," he said.

According to the National Agricultural Statistical Service, 3.85 million pounds of honey were produced in Michigan last year from producers with five or more bee colonies.

The increase in production happened despite the number of bee colonies in the state falling from about 82,000 to 70,000 over the previous year, according to NASS.

Janik said that happens when colonies make additional honey if returning bees were able to draw from flowers and trees containing extra nectar during pollination.

In comparison, Indiana produced about 477,000 pounds of honey last year from its 9,000 colonies, NASS stated.

The number of colonies were about equal to the previous year but the amount of honey from each colony on average dropped from 63 to 53 pounds.

In this case, Janik said the weather in some parts of the state could have been unfavorable for maximum nectar production and bees not wanting to go out to gather it.

"If Mother Nature is putting it out there but it's too cold and raining, the bees will miss it. If you miss it. You miss it. You really do," he said.

Production can also be impacted by Varroa mites finding their way inside hives and start killing bees.

According to Michigan State University, the parasite is "one of the greatest threats to honey bee health, honey production and pollination services."

Varroa mites attach themselves to honey bees whose health gradually declines from any transmission of viruses or disease.

Without proper management of the predator, which can only reproduce in a honey bee colony, the colonies from spread of disease typically collapse from infestation in two to three years.

Meghan Milbrath, assistant professor in the department of entomology at the East Lansing campus, said the health of honey bee colonies are also susceptible to other pathogens and contact with pesticides.

"If the colony is affected by other things, even if the weather is favorable, they won't be able to bring in a good crop," she said.

Milbrath also pointed out production in Michigan was up last year but still well below the amounts from 2021, 2020 and 2019, which ranged from 4.4 million pounds to 5.1 million pounds.

Michigan ranked No. 8 for U.S. honey production last year.

North Dakota was the leading honey producer at 38 million pounds, while South Dakota was second at 18 million pounds.

California was third at 13 million pounds.

Janik said he believes the honey making season will start a few weeks early this year because of flowers and trees blooming sooner from the mild winter.

He also predicted there will be a lot of nectar in the plants from good amounts of late winter and early spring precipitation.

Again, Janik pointed out a bumper crop in honey supers, which is part of a hive, depends on what the weather is doing when bees are ready to go out and return with nectar.

"If you have good weather and the crops are really pushing out extra nectar you can fill up honey supers very quickly, very quickly," he said.

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it. — *Mark Twain*

THREE OAKS LIBRARY CELEBRATING 165TH ANNIVERSARY

In honor of its 165th year in service, the Three Oaks Township Public Library invites members of the community to come in for a cup of coffee and a celebratory cookie provided by the Friends of Three Oaks Library between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 9.

Story Time for all ages at Three Oaks Township Public Library is from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and from 4:30 – 5 p.m. Thursdays.

Drop-In Play Doh Play Date is from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays. Drop in to squish, shape, and roll with Play Doh and supplies. Parents must accompany young children.

The Knitting and Crocheting Circle is from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays. Individuals of all skill levels are invited to bring any needlework and enjoy a cup of coffee while visiting with others.

Lego Club @ the Library is all day Thursdays. Drop in for a few minutes or stay all day to build and create with thousands of Legos. All creations will be left up for one week.

Adult Drop-In Color Me Happy Hour is from 1-2 p.m. Thursdays. Coffee, coloring sheets and colored pencils will be provided for this adult only social time.

Take & Make bags for children are available on a first come, first served, basis.

The coffee pot is always and free of charge compliments of the Three Oaks Library Friends. — STAFF REPORTS

La Porte tackling old tree problem with federal money

BY STAN MADDUX

The City of La Porte has a lot of old and unhealthy trees from mass plantings a century or more ago.

Ongoing efforts to create a more vibrant and safer urban forest has received a major shot in the arm from a $1 million federal grant.

Those dollars awarded by the U.S. Forest Service will start being put to work soon.

"A lot of our trees are older and they're going to have to be replaced here in the next few years. This is a good start," said Assistant City Engineer Tucker King.

King said the first monies will be spent on updating an inventory from five years ago of trees in city owned tree lawns that need to be cut down or trimmed.

About two-thirds of the 400 trees earmarked for removal have already been taken down by members of the street department over the past two years.

Beginning late this summer, King said the goal is to cut down and trim the rest of the unhealthy trees still left on the previous list and others that might be seriously ailing now.

Tree cutting specialists will be hired with the funds to mostly assist the street department with bringing down problematic trees, such as those with branches hanging above homes and power lines.

Beginning in the fall, King said much of the focus will be on planting anywhere from 500 to 700 new trees in public easements over the three and a half year lifespan of the grant.

The city's nickname has long been the "Maple City" since a majority of the trees planted here a long time ago were maples.

Besides maples, the new trees will include a wide variety of other species to be strategically planted where they can best thrive without threatening homes and sidewalks.

King said trees with smaller root systems that won't grow as large are the ones that will go in areas too narrow for the big trees that were planted in the past.

The tree work will happen on the letter and number streets and east of Rose Street, areas where many of the city's oldest trees exist.

Street Department Director Jeff Batchelor said that, due to age and condition, the oldest trees are prone to falling during storms.

Batchelor said other property damage has been from tree roots wrapping themselves around water and sewer lines causing them break or working their way inside lines and clogging them up.

He said many sidewalks have also been cracked and heaved up by the roots on trees that are much too large for where they were planted.

Batchelor said the idea is to plant new trees in the right locations so problems from the past several decades won't repeat themselves long into the future.

"It's going to be a win, win for the city," he said.

Some of the funds will go toward developing a plan for taking care of the new trees so they stay healthy during the first couple of years when they're prone to shock from replanting and creating a long term management strategy for the entire urban forest.

King said he would like to be finished with the project before the grant expires so more funding can be sought for getting a jump on the urban forestry work still left to do.

"The City of La Porte has never had an opportunity like this when it comes to funding for our trees. I think it's going to have a really big impact," King said.

The Boreal Forest

OPINIONS

GLOBAL OPINIONS
The Manipulator
Part 2 of 5 Series

OPINION BY DINO N. FATOUROS

If anyone starts treating you like your parents did when you were seven years old; with love, attentiveness and a beautiful smile, Beware that you're not about to "like" and make a manipulator your friend, confidant or ally.

How often does an individual treat you like your loving mother did when you were a kid? The manipulator's personal behavior is to keep up appearances of virtue such as honesty, accommodativeness or generosity, but is ready to abandon these acts as soon as one's interests are threatened. The manipulator is an immoral opportunist who's only interests are usually money, power and their maintenance.

The populace "sees" what the manipulator "appears" to be, however, close inspection of their acts show what they truly are. Cheers

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

Interest emerges in redeveloping Marquette Mall

BY STAN MADDUX

New life could be breathed into the mostly vacant Marquette Mall and its seven story office building in Michigan City.

One owner looking at turning the property into a regional destination again has emerged from a buyout of investors who purchased it close to 20 years ago.

Moshe Shemian, who's from the Los Angeles area, is looking to "proceed forward" with a vision to develop the property into what he described as a "town center," according to a press release.

Economic Development Corporation of Michigan City Executive Director Clarence Hulse said he has discussed possible uses of the property with Shemian over the past six months.

He said Shemian is looking at everything from hotel rooms, apartments, entertainment center to restaurants and retail stores.

"At this point, we've talked about a number of options. He's going to have to nail it down with some kind of a site plan and market study," he said.

Hulse said he's open to the city providing financial incentives to help with the cost of any redevelopment.

The once thriving mall and office tower built in the 1960s has been in decline since losing anchor stores JC Penney, Carson Pirie Scott and Sears over the past 10 years or so.

The remaining businesses are set up in a strip mall type setting along the east side of the mall, while the former anchor store space and other parts deeper inside the building are empty.

Right now, Hulse said it appears just water damaged areas of the mall could be torn down while the remainder of the structure will be renovated for future occupancy.

"We'll just wait to see what he wants to do. That's up to him to decide," he said.

Hulse said only the first two floors of the office tower beside the mall have tenants.

The announcement comes at a time when construction is beginning on high rise apartments, hotel rooms and condominiums at two separate locations on the city's north end.

Those developers are banking their success on more visitors and residents from the Chicago area coming to Michigan City on South Shore Railroad commuter trains after construction of a second line to Gary is completed in the coming weeks.

Adding a second line is projected to reduce travel to and from Chicago by over 30 minutes each way.

Hulse said the buyout happened because of Shemian seeing potential to profit by investing into the mall property to take advantage of the economic boom predicted for the community from quicker rail travel.

"When he came here, I think he liked what was going on in the city in terms of the new developments and what could happen here," he said.

Hulse said large projects take time in areas like planning and structural engineering but he feels the start of renovating the mall and tower could happen sometime next year.

He said a finished product is very likely within a five year period.

"Before you spend any money you got to have a plan," he said.

A benefit for the School of American Music

AN EVENING WITH PATRICIA BARBER

Renowned Chicago jazz singer, pianist and composer Patricia Barber will be performing a benefit concert for the School of American Music at 7 pm. Friday, April 26.

Fresh off her European tour, Barber will perform with her band, Neal Alger on guitar, Emma Dayhuff on bass and Greg Artry on drums. The concert will consist of original music and classic jazz and will take place at The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive in Three Oaks. Tickets are $100 and can be purchased on the Acorn's website, acornlive.org.

Barber has earned international acclaim as a dazzling and uncompromising jazz artist. Long known for her sultry vocals, compelling pianism and sophisticated songwriting, she has come to be regarded as a significant American composer as well – a deeply visionary artist, who blurs the lines between poetry, jazz and art music. Over the course of her career, she has played jazz clubs and concert halls, produced records in Chicago and New York, collaborated with opera legend Renee Fleming and acclaimed composer Shulamit Ran and concertized while teaching jazz singing as a Townsend Resident Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley. She was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2019. More information can be found on her website, PatriciaBarber.com.

"I believe music schools are a force for good in villages, cities, and countries that have them," Barber, who is a firm supporter of music education, said. "Music brings joy and social cohesion. Learning music can inspire passion, purpose, and appreciation for the larger musical institutions that are so important to culture."

"I'm sure that anybody who lives in Three Oaks can see the positive influence the School of American Music brings to the community," Barber added. "I am thrilled to do what I can to support it."

The concert is a benefit for the restricted Future Fund endowment for the School of American Music.

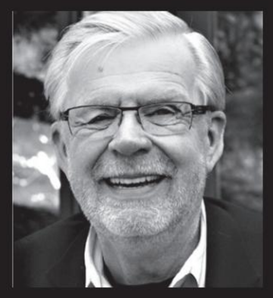
"The music school endowment is our plan for the future, which is now upon us. After so many years of service, and growth, we now need to plan to pay executive management when the volunteers who currently do the job are no longer in a position to do so, and to increase support for teachers. There could not be a more responsible investment to guarantee the future of low-cost music education in our area. Please give generously," founder Garth Taylor said.

The nonprofit School of American Music (SAM) provides education, performance, and audience opportunities in music in the Southwest Michigan area. Visit the website SchoolofAmericanMusic.com to donate to the Future Fund. SAM is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible and matched by the Michiana Arts Foundation.

For more information, please contact SAM at 269-409-1191 orschoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com — STAFF REPORTS

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Thursday night was a great night for sports in my neck of the woods.

My buddy and I were going to go to Lockport and watch the Cubs play the World Series champion Texas Rangers at Cooms Corner, the sports bar owned by Cub broadcaster Ron Coomer.

Then we discovered that the University of Illinois NCAA sweet 16 game was going to start at just about the same time the Cub game would be ending.

We didn't want to be driving home from Lockport when the Illinois basketball game was being played, so we decided to stay much closer to home and that turned out to be a wise decision.

The Cubs game went into extra innings before Texas prevailed 4-3. The worst thing that happened wasn't losing the game, it was losing Cub pitching ace Justin Steele for a month or so to a pulled hamstring.

Anyway, because the game went into extra innings, by the time Texas scored the winning run the Illinois game was nearing the middle of the first half. My friend decided to go home to watch the basketball game, but I decided to go to a different place.

A group of friends have children attending the University of Illinois and one of their daughters is a friend of one of Illinois best players. I decided to join them and enjoyed watching the game with a group of raucous fans.

The outcome was in doubt until the very end of the game when the fighting Illini pulled out an extremely entertaining 72-69 upset victory.

The weekend had a different outcome.

Illinois played top seeded Connecticut and got steamrolled 77-52. They had been playing so well and many experts thought that they could knock off Connecticut but it turns out that Connecticut is even better than the experts thought.

We're now down to the final four. Purdue, Connecticut, Alabama, and N.C. State remain standing with Connecticut and Purdue favored to meet in the championship game. Once again, the tournament exceeded expectations in chills and thrills and I can't wait until next year.

After losing the opener and their all star pitcher for a month, the second game of the season didn't go as planned either. Texas ripped the Cubs 11-2 and fans were starting to get a little antsy. Fortunately, the Cubs pulled out the final game of the three game series 9-5 by scoring four runs in the ninth.

Opening day at Wrigley Field is Monday, where the Cubs will take on the Colorado Rockies and Kris Bryant. I wish Bryant well, but not until after the Rockies leave Chicago.

Meanwhile, the White Sox also had a tough beginning to their season, losing all three of their home games to the Detroit Tigers. Fortunately, the baseball season is very long so there's plenty of time to turn things around.

Matt Haig said, "You don't have to understand life. You just have to live it."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Bison open season with doubleheader sweep

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School baseball team, perhaps, couldn't have had a better start to the season.

The Bison won both games of a doubleheader at Lawrence 22-3 and 21-2 Thursday, March 28.

New Buffalo was helped on offense by eight fielding errors from Lawrence during the first game.

Head coach Adam Lijewski said batters drawing walks also helped his team with scoring in both games.

"Lawrence is a young team that struggles at pitching. We are a team turning the corner to be a good all round team," he said.

Many of the players for New Buffalo were freshmen two years ago when the team failed to a win game.

Last season, the Bison were above the .500 mark in wins until a series of late season losses.

The goal for the team this year is to make a run for the District 4 title.

Despite opposing pitchers struggling with their control, Lijewski said his batters just didn't stand at the plate looking for walks.

They often swung at pitches that weren't always strikes but they were able to reach the balls with their bats.

The Bison recorded 22 hits in both games.

"It's hard to hit some of the inconsistent pitchers. You get stuck in the walk mode. These guys were looking to hit. Big difference from a few years ago," Lijewski said.

Highlights on offense included a stand up triple by Ethan Lijewski and a stand up double from Nick Wolfe.

Starting pitchers senior Sam Wendell-Suppa and freshman Drew Bowen went the distance, allowing just five hits combined in both games.

The Bison play again at home April 9 against River Valley, which defeated Buchanan March 26 in their season opener 19-4.

Lijewski said he's pushing his players, who seem to be responding positively because they enjoy the game and want to keep improving.

"The real test is our next game. I'll be saying that all year. We will never be satisfied," he said.

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Hey Shakur Stevenson don't be so anxious to fight me because when we are inside the ring one on one, you will know it's not the same to see the lion than seeing him coming.
— Issac PitBull Cruz

Ground broken on Michigan portion of Marquette Greenway

VISION BECOMES REALITY

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

"It's here."

Spoken by Judith Zabicki, former clerk of New Buffalo Township and former chair of The Pokagon Fund Board of Directors, these words could be best used to sum up the excitement that permeated the chilly, rainy southwestern Michigan air during the long-awaited groundbreaking for Phase One of the Michigan portion of the Marquette Greenway Wednesday, April 3.

Project stakeholders gathered at the corner of Mechanic and Smith streets in downtown New Buffalo, which is the site of a future trailhead that will serve as a starting and end point for the four-mile Michigan portion of the 60-mile non motorized trail from New Buffalo to east Chicago at Calumet Park.

First introduced in 2005, the Marquette Greenway was established as a priority by the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission in 2009 and again in 2017.

The trail will connect five counties with 15 municipalities, one National Park, one state park and almost 200,000 people living within 1.5 miles of the trail along the southern shore of Lake Michigan.

Twenty-four miles of the trail have already been built in Illinois and Indiana.

An easement from Amtrak had to be secured by New Buffalo Township to make room for the trail along U.S. 12. Over $5.6 million for Phase One has been secured from federal and state grants, The Pokagon Fund, New Buffalo Township, New Buffalo City and over 200 private/family foundations and community members.

When the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) let the project in late 2023, the bids came in over the estimated cost and fortunately, MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) awarded Berrien County an additional $1,118,636 in funding to help close the gap.

Phase One will include the trailhead with parking, a picnic area and a bike repair station and a 10-foot-wide paved path along U.S. 12 from Willard Street to the railroad crossing at Grand Beach Road. Kalin Construction is the contractor and Abonmarche is the engineering firm overseeing Phase One construction, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Phase Two will continue the path along Grand Beach Road to the Indiana/Michigan state line and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Gary Wood, president of Friends of Berrien County Trails, said that the group is a "citizen driven nonprofit dedicated to fostering connectivity across Berrien County through a network of trails and promoting their utilization."

"Friends groups play a pivotal role in advocacy, fundraising and community outreach through the planning and execution phases of trail projects," he said.

An early member of the former Friends of Harbor Country Trails was Arnie Feinberg, who also served on the New Buffalo Township and City park boards.

"Without Arnie's unwavering advocacy, akin to a dog with a bone, none of us would be here today...His dedication to enhancing our community through trails and recreation is truly commendable," Wood said.

It was over half a decade ago when Larry Frankel, a big supporter of trails, got a grant from The Pokagon Fund to develop a master plan for trails in Harbor Country, Feinberg said.

Charamy Clearly from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources addresses the crowd

Gary Wood opens the groundbreaking ceremony

Charamy Clearly, Mitch Barloga, Brandon Fewins, Mike Smith, Judy Zabicki and Marcy Hamilton pose with plaques

Rep. Joey Andrews for Michigan's 38th District addresses the crowd

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit speaks at the groundbreaking.

Brandon Fewins, Michigan Director of the USDA Rural Development, speaks at the groundbreaking

Arnie Feinberg speaks to the crowd at the groundbreaking

Shovels are in the ground for Phase One of the Michigan portion of the Marquette Greenway

Judy Zabicki speaks on behalf of The Pokagon Fund

New Buffalo Mayor John Humphrey speaks at the groundbreaking

Frankel also started the Friends of Harbor Country Trails, with one of the group's earliest projects being the Marquette Greenway. Wood and others then "expanded the scope of the trail work we had in this area from just focusing on Harbor Country to include all of Berrien County."

"They took the initial work on this Marquette Greenway in Michigan - they got the funding, they got the engineering, they got the permits and that's resulted in the groundbreaking ceremony that we're going to conduct today," Feinberg said.

New Buffalo Mayor John Humphrey said that 80 percent of Michiganders participate in some form of outdoor recreation, which derives approximately $10 billion in consumer spending every year.

"It (Marquette Greenway) connects us to a safe method of travel for nonmotorized transportation for nearby communities, like Grand Beach...Reducing the vehicular traffic by improving non motorized transportation options is a priority for the City of New Buffalo and reducing the number of cars on the roads and parking lots is an important goal to work toward," he said.

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that investing in their parks has been a priority of the township for many years.

"Trails have long been a priority in our parks and recreation plan, as evident not only by this project but the work we've done creating a non motorized trail along Red Arrow Highway north of town," she said.

Mac Elliot, chair of the Berrien Board of Commissioners, said that, as the manager/coordinator of local roads within the township, the county facilitates funding for trail projects, including serving as the applicant for MDOT TAP funding.

"While many tend to view them (trails) solely through the lens of recreational or environmental aspects, it's important to recognize the comprehensive advantages that they bring - this encompasses not only promoting public health but also fostering economic growth and enhancing transportation options and contributing to community pride and identity," he said.

An early funder, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA) provided a $99,000 Rural Business Development Grant to the county to cover the cost of surveying and engineering the trail.

Brandon Fewins, the USDA Rural Development state director, said that the trails are "economic drivers."

"What you'll end up seeing is, when the trail is completed, all the small businesses - the mom and pop shops - you'll see more bikes in their driveways than sometimes you'll see vehicles, and that's a cool thing...It will benefit this community in a variety of ways," he said.

Zabicki said that The Pokagon Fund, which was one of the trail's very first investors, contributed to the project's resiliency.

She thanked Tony McGhee of Abonmarche and Marcy Hamilton, senior planner/ executive director of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, for "carrying us through" the project.

"It's important to understand the efforts of a number of people who have come together for this to happen ...Seeing the Michigan portion of this project finally come to fruition after 10 years brings me a lot of joy," she said.

Special thanks were also given to the following individuals: Mitch Barloga from the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Robert and Collette Kemper, Chad and Heather Gradowski, the Village of Grand Beach, Lou O'Donnell, Rob Gow and Chris Pfauser, Caroline Ramsey, the Friends of Berrien County Trails Board of Director, Diane Pyshos, Peggy McTigue, Willa Lang, Joanne Sims and Leslie Wood.

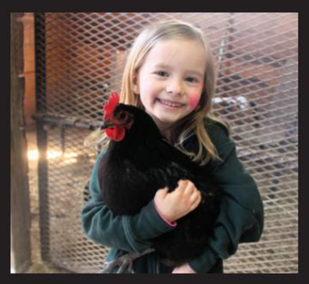
Children hunt for eggs at the legion

Hunting for eggs at the legion

Egg hunters are raring to go at Spring Creek Equastrian Center

The older set hunts for eggs at the legion

Children meet the Easter Bunny at the legion



Molly McWephy poses with one of the chickens at Spring Creek

The older set is raring to go at the legion's egg hunt

The younger set hunts for eggs at the legion

Hunting for eggs at the American Legion

Little Miss New Buffalo First Runner-up Amelia Brough hunts for eggs at the legion

Gwen Palen lays out the rules for the legion's egg hunt

Amy Willard-Cantrell with Classy at Spring Creek

Quinn Simpson check out her basket of eggs at the legion

Children flock to area egg hunts

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Children hopped on down the bunny trail from Harbert, Michigan, all the way down to Three Oaks for area Easter egg hunts that took place Saturday, March 30.

Egg hunts took place at Lakeside Park for the Lakeside Association's annual hunt; at the New Buffalo American Legion Post 169 (during which over 2,000 eggs were hidden, including special eggs for each age division and at Spring Creek Equestrian Center in Three Oaks, where children could hunt for eggs amongst the horses and other animals and visit them in the barn.

Also at each hunt, children could visit with the Easter Bunny himself and pose for an impromptu picture with him.

Hunting for eggs in Lakeside

Joan Shelby hunts for eggs at Spring Creek

Willow Roberts gets to know Classy at Spring Creek

The older group hunts for eggs at the legion

Marley and Crosby Gray hang out with the Easter Bunny and horses at Spring Creek

Hunting for eggs at Spring Creek

The Easter Bunny befriends one of the chicken at Spring Creek

Egg hunting down on the farm at Spring Creek

Egg-hunting is a team effort at the legion

Jennifer and Kylie Bohena check for the special egg at the legion

Harper and Charlotte Cordin await the egg hunt at the legion

Miss New Buffalo First Runner-up Katelyn Rainwater (front) and Miss New Buffalo Audrey Proctor distribute baskets at the legion

Maggie and Marty Moriarty with the Easter Bunny at the legion

Amy and Grady Nedervelt hunt eggs at the legion

The Easter Bunny gives treats at the legion

Enjoying a hot dog lunch at the legion

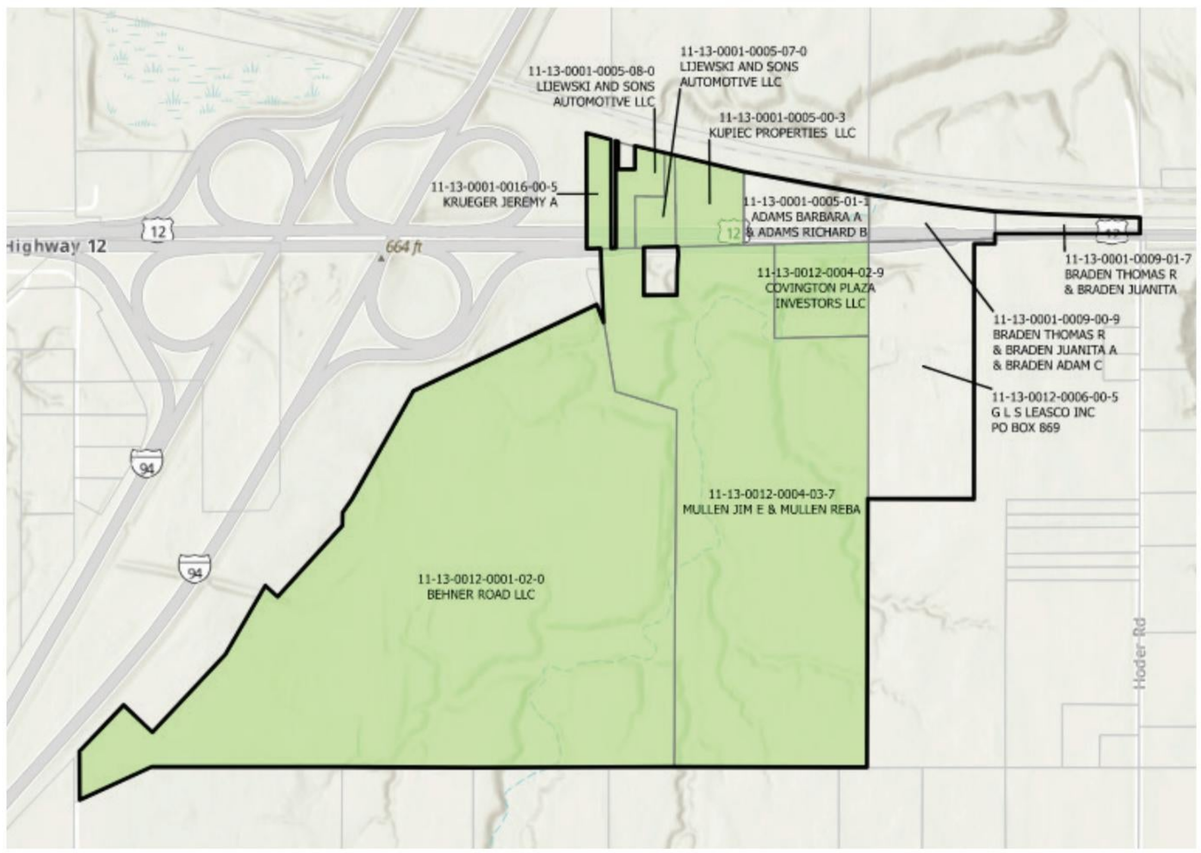
PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
FOR EXIT 4 SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT DISTRICT
THE TOWNSHIP OF NEW BUFFALO

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended, a special assessment roll has been prepared and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination. Said special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing part of the cost of the following described improvements to the above property benefitted therefrom:
The acquisition and construction of water and sanitary sewer improvements to extend water and sewer mains along US-12 from existing Township facilities on Hoder Road west within the MDOT right of way to the I-94 interchange, together with all necessary interests in land, appurtenances and attachments thereto.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet on April 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time, at the New Buffalo Township Offices, 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, Michigan, for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at this hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal if an appeal should be desired. A property owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment or may file his or her appearance by letter delivered to the Township Clerk at or prior to the meeting to be held on April 15, 2024, and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. The property owner or any person having an interest in the property subject to the proposed special assessments may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the State Tax Tribunal within thirty-five (35) days after confirmation of the special assessment roll if that special assessment was protested at this hearing.

MICHELLE HANNON, CLERK
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP



PRE-KINDERGARTEN,
KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP
TAKING PLACE
AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It's time to start planning for the 2024-25 school year at New Buffalo Area Schools

New Buffalo Area Schools is looking for students for the Bison Beginners Pre-Kindergarten program and kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year.

It is helpful for the district to know how many students there will be to begin planning for the 2024-2025 school year. If you believe your child will qualify for either the Bison Beginners pre-kindergarten program or for kindergarten, please contact the office at 269-469-6060 to ensure your student is on the enrollment list. You can also email the office staff at jwendel@nbas.org or rbowen@nbas.org. Please contact the office by Monday, April 8. You will need to include information such as your child's name, birth date, parent/guardian name, address, phone number and email address. The necessary paperwork/processes for completion will also be provided.

Parents/guardians that have children who will be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2024, and are residents of the New Buffalo Area School District are welcome to register their child for the Bison Beginners Pre-Kindergarten program. The program offers both half-day (a.m.) or full-day sessions. At this time, information is only being taken on students that currently reside within the school district. Enrollment is limited to 25 students for the Bison Beginners program.

Parents/guardians with students that will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2024, and are residents of the New Buffalo Area School District are welcome to register their child for the full-day kindergarten program. At this time, information is only being taken on students that currently reside within the school district.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students attending New Buffalo Elementary for the 2024-2025 school year will be able to have their mandatory hearing, vision and dental screening by the Berrien County Health Department from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, May 20, at New Buffalo Elementary.

If you need a hearing/vision/dental screening for your child who will be attending New Buffalo Elementary and you are not available May 20, please contact the Berrien County Health Department at 269-926-7121 extension 5293 to schedule an appointment or visit their website (www.berriencounty.org/634/Hearing-Vision-Screening).

HIKERS TO SEARCH FOR EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS

The Harbor Country Hikers will check out Michigan's ephemeral spring wildflowers during a hike at Love Creek County Park Saturday, April 13.

The park commonly displays a big variety of wildflowers by mid-April, including trillium, hepatica, Dutchman's breeches, toothwort and many more. Hike leader Derek Pelc, Berrien County's chief naturalist, will lead the hike and tell how many of these flowers were thought - almost always erroneously - to heal various maladies.

The hike begins at 1 p.m. and is expected to last about 2-1/4 hours.

Love Creek Park includes some 200 acres of meadows, forests, marshes and creeks. In addition to its hiking trails, the park offers bicycle, cross-country skiing and fat tire bike trails. The park is located in Berrien Center, Michigan.

Although membership is preferred, all are welcome to join this event. Hiking distance is a bit over two miles and the trail is rated physically moderate to difficult, with some stairs and hills. Attendees are urged to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or boots and a cap and bring plenty of water. For driving directions to Love Creek Park and other information about this hike, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.com, or its facebook page.

— STAFF REPORTS

Youth fair announces grandstand line-up

Berrien County Youth Fair officials have announced the remainder of the 2024 lineup of entertainment acts for the 78th Berrien County Youth Fair.

Starting off the week at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11, the BCYF will bring back the Street Legal Pickup Truck and Tractor Pull for its third year. After overwhelming turnouts in 2022 and 2023 and with no gate admission fee into the fair itself, this event is an affordable option for those looking to kick off the week a day early. The always popular, always loud, Truck and Tractor Pull is slated to return at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, with a different set of classes than Sunday. Presented by Keystone Cooperative, this year's pull will again be an NTPA regional event and will feature 2WD Trucks, Super Farm, Hot Farm and Limited Light Superstock Tractors.

The grandstand will feature three free Circus Continental shows on "Kids Day" Tuesday, Aug. 13.

At 7 .m. Wednesday, Aug. 14, country star Randy Houser will take the stage in a show that will be presented by United Federal Credit Union. With an inimitable voice The New York Times describes as "wholly different, thicker and more throbbing, a caldron bubbling over," Houser has racked up over half a dozen hits and 1 billion streams. Houser's sixth studio album, "Note To Self," is available now via Magnolia Music Group and features 10 tracks all co-written by the Mississippi native, with his lead single and title track, "Note To Self," marking his "powerful return" following 2019's critically-acclaimed album "Magnolia." Along with putting out his latest song "Cancel" and a relentless touring schedule, in late 2023, Houser landed on-screen roles in Martin Scorsese's acclaimed film "Killers of the Flower Moon" as well as the inspiring "The Hill," which hit number one most streamed moving on Netflix in February 2024.

Hitting the stage at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, will be "Direct from Sweden - The Music of ABBA." The tribute band will deliver the closest ABBA experience you'll ever get, with some of Sweden's most experienced and talented singers and musicians playing 100% live.

Returning at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, derby promoter, TNT Demolition Derby, will bring back the crowd favorite demolition derby. Derby fans can expect to see classes such as Big Car Motor Swap, Big Car Lite Modifieds, MWFA Street Stock, Bonestock Small Car FWD and Powerwheels for the kids.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, BCYF will bring back the crowd favorite, Bullmania, including crowd favorite bull riding and kid favorite, mutton busting.

Tickets for all grandstand shows are on sale now at the fair office, online at www.bcyf.org or by phone at 269-473-1500 (ticket fees do not include gate admission).

The 78th Berrien County Youth Fair will run Aug. 12-17,with the theme of "Explore Planet Fair." — STAFF REPORTS

The Acorn continues 'Art at The Acorn' with an Artist Reception for 'Nathan Margoni: Golden Boy'

The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts will transform into a visual art space with the initiative, Art at The Acorn – Artist Reception for Nathan Margoni: Golden Boy at 7 p.m., with the program at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 16.

The free reception will feature an Artist Talk and Q & A with moderator Janet Davies. Light bites and a cash bar will be available.

The exhibition will feature a series of drawings and acrylic paintings that feature a character named Golden Boy -- who is part-golden retriever and part-human.

Margoni describes his art as a form of self-exploration. He develops characters that represent different aspects of his psyche, and slowly builds worlds around them. The process allows Margoni to explore "mysterious and sometimes scary" parts of his brain in a safe space, where he is free to play and take risks.

"My most recent character – Golden Boy – represents a very wholesome and Midwest version of myself, who works hard to be loved by everyone, but has lost touch with his own dreams and vision of success," he said.

Currently, Margoni is the director of education at Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph, Michigan, and adjunct faculty at the University of Notre Dame. He received his BFA in painting from the Cleveland Institute of Art and his MFA in sculpture from SUNY Purchase College. He has exhibited work at Schulamit Nazarian (Los Angeles), the Urban Institute of Contemporary Art (Grand Rapids) and attended residencies at Wassaic Project (Wassaic, New York), Vermont Studio Center (Johnson, Vermont), Millay Colony (Austerlitz, New York) and Kaus Australis (Rotterdam, Netherlands).

Free tickets are available at WWW.acornlive.org. The Acorn is located at 107 Generations Drive in Three Oaks.

— STAFF REPORTS

PRESENTATION ON PUD ON TAP FOR THIS MONTH

A detailed presentation on the Planned Unit Development (PUD) in the community, followed by a Q&A session for the PUD, will take place at 6 p.m. Monday, April 15, in the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center.

This session will provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions and engage in meaningful dialogue about the PUD project.

"Your feedback and questions will help ensure that the PUD project aligns with the needs and values of our community," Adam Bowen, superintendent at New Buffalo Area Schools, said.

"Together, we can work towards creating a vibrant and sustainable future for our community."

A letter was sent via USPS to residents that reside next to the planned unit development.

"Thank you for your continued support and engagement," Bowen said. — STAFF REPORTS

Book and movie festival to screen 'The Color Purple'

New Troy's Book and Movie Festival will conclude Tuesday, April 16, with a screening of the 1985 version of "The Color Purple."

Based on Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same title, this is an epic tale of an African American woman surviving a brutal life in rural Georgia in the early 1900s. The movie earned Whoopie Goldberg an Oscar nomination for Best Actress, and Steven Spielberg a Directors Guild award.

According to the website ScreenRant the "1985 version focuses specifically on the realistic brutality of growing up in the South during segregation and it results in some incredible work from the actors." The film is criticized today for glossing over a lesbian relationship, but at the time it was filmed, lesbian relationships were rarely depicted on screen.

A new interpretation of the book, a musical released under the same title in 2023, is celebrated as a more true reimagining of the book. Attendees are encouraged to watch the old version at this screening, then stream the new version, and decide for themselves which is better.

Copies of the book are available to borrow in New Troy Community Center's Activities Room, open from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to noon Friday through Saturday. After April 16, a DVD of the 1985 version will also be available for check-out.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the film starts at 6 p.m. sharp. An intermission will provide an opportunity for attendees to stretch their legs. Visitors are welcome to bring their own beverage and/or take-out dinner. Free popcorn will be served, and soft drinks will be available.

This event is sponsored and paid for by Friends of New Troy (FONT) and is free to the public — though donations to support future events are always appreciated.

The New Troy Community Center is located at 13372 California Road in New Troy. FONT is a nonprofit 501(c)3 committed to offering a welcoming space to all. For more information, visit www.friendsofnewtroy.org. — STAFF REPORTS

A Day in the Life

McDonald's in Bridgman is 'THE PLACE'

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

There's a good reason to applaud McDonald's in Bridgman.

Collectively, their management team has been with McDonald's for over 50 years. Nancy and Bridgette have been managers for nearly a quarter century at this famous landmark. Through thick and thin, they have been the super team that runs the show in Bridgman.

Upon entering, it's clear that things are different at this location. Immediately, the charming "hostess" greets you. You cannot escape from the salutation that comes from the beaming face of Sally, who is tiny in stature and is pushing 90 years of age, as she greets each and every customer with a robust "Welcome to McDonald's!" She is in charge of the floor, and she relishes her job.

My friend Bob and I always have exactly the same meal: a standard hamburger, with a request for extra everything, and a small order of french fries. The drink is always a coke. We take our place at our favorite table: a round '"deuce" near the back window. If the meal is not ready once you've paid for it, they deliver it to your table; there is no waiting at the counter once you have paid. Once you have settled at your table, Sally checks to see if everything is okay. If you forgot the ketchup or anything, she will get it for you. She is always "Johnny on the spot."

Bridgette and Nancy are true "team" players, literally. Every morning, when possible, they meet to determine any special staff circumstances that require their attention. When someone from the staff calls in sick, they more often than not take their place on the line until they can call in another person. During these hard times of finding enough staff, they are frequently "filling in" for missing people all day long. They were doubly challenged during the remodeling this past year; however, they love all of the upgrades. ("We love the new design and décor!" said Nancy.)

"We have learned to go with the flow during these hard times for not having enough staff," said Bridgette. Said Nancy: "Both of us know every single job in the complex and how to pinch hit for the skilled people who may be missing."

During the pandemic, it was especially difficult to fill positions. "Often, it requires us to work long hours to make certain we maintain our standards of excellence in the quality of food and service," Nancy, who speaks in a McDonald's gunfire dialect (probably from always filling in and working at breakneck speed for 22 years), said.

They are exceptionally proud of their operation in the highly competitive industry. "Vacations are often delayed to maintain our standards," said Nancy. "Family and friendships are challenging to keep up, and often change. Postponing things is the order of the day. I guess you might say we are dyed-in-the-wool McDonald's employees," said Bridgette.

"Fortunately, we both love our jobs!"

HOROSCOPE

APRIL 4-10, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

There is a very powerful vibration coming your way with the solar eclipse on Tuesday. Get the most out of this energy by taking some time alone to become more aware of yourself, your needs and what changes need to be made to attain that more authentic, on-point life.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

The vibes from this eclipse are lighting up your inner world, helping you get in touch with things that you may have kept secret from others and what you may not want to see about yourself. Use this energy to free yourself from the past and release any shame or guilt associated with it.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

A lot will be happening on the social scene this week. Friends and social groups will be a huge influence now and it is important that you take charge of yourself and don't go along with the crowd for likes. Take responsibility for your actions and don't associate with good people, who do bad things.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Big changes in what you are responsible for and how you maintain your image will be implemented over the next several weeks. Whether you take a class, read a book or download the information know that these changes will not only improve your finances but improve your reputation as well.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Be aware that there is some amazing energy coming your way this week. You will be feeling more in tune with a higher vibe, giving you the courage to search for more meaning and a deeper understanding of your place in the world. The answer to a mystery will be placed before you to find.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

There are some changes in store for your committed relationships over the next few weeks. Understand that there could be some wake up calls you don't want to miss coming in. Changes will need to be made in important contracts and agreements. Be sure all parties are properly compensated.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

You can expect some changes in the relationship department this week. A new perspective on your partnership or a new level of interaction, one that requires more trust and communication will present itself. It is up to you to make it flow now. Harness that self-discipline and make the most of this connection.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Get your daily life in order. This is the time to evaluate your schedule and see where you may be wasting time or over investing. Cut out unproductive habits and concepts that compromise your sense of self-worth. You may have to face and release some anger to clear that schedule.

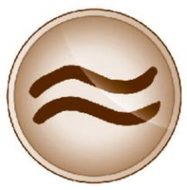
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

There is a very uplifting and motivating energy coming your way this week, giving you the courage to express your inner heartfelt feelings. Let people know how you feel and find out how they feel about you too. Don't just get the bad stuff out, get the love and healing flowing too.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

A lot will be changing around the house and with family due to this solar eclipse that is happening on Tuesday. Whether you relocate or take on a roommate, know that more patience and balanced communication is key to a happy home now. Have those difficult talks about chores and money.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



You will need to deal with people in a different way now. Whether you need to communicate technically or face to face, it is important to keep things simple and to the point. Stay away from complicated wording or using lengthy forms. The financial costs of changes will be unavoidable but worth it.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

The way you handle finances, valuable items and even the value you place on yourself will come under scrutiny this week. This is the time to harness your personal values, goals and ideals and start making the moves necessary to secure what you want out of this existence. Be a go getter!

Those that know, do. Those that understand, teach.
— Aristotle

THE BENDT SHOVEL
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Sandra Bendt
(219) 874-2269

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

2	6	4						7
						2		
					9		5	
4	5			2				
							8	6
				5				
7		8			5		6	
	1	6			4			
5				1				

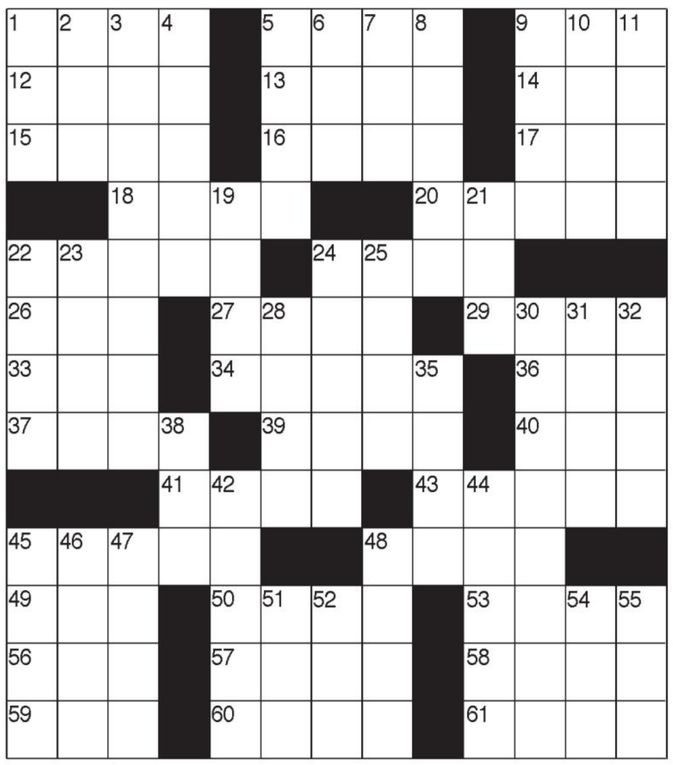
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (abbr.)
5 Thin strip of wood
9 Master of Business Administration (abbr.)
12 Butter tree
13 Rhyme scheme
14 Internet provider
15 Containers
16 Cut
17 Plant disease
18 Melville's captain
20 Pedestal for a bust
22 Prison
24 Old-style verb
26 Amer. sign language (abbr.)
27 Mild oath
29 Surgical needle
33 School course (abbr.)
34 Appointments
36 Deposed Ugandan dictator
37 Rate
39 River from Lake Baikal
40 Former capital of Serbia
41 S. Afr. town
43 Tuft
45 Arabic script
48 Tiber tributary
49 Peak
50 Clear broth (Scot.)
53 Among
56 Terrorist org. in the '70s
57 He (Lat.)
58 Unattended
59 Dolt
60 Affixes
61 Black as ink

DOWN

1 Revised Standard Version (abbr.)
2 Oriental tea
3 Tinny
4 Ottoman official
5 Baby goat
6 Aborigine (Austr.)
7 Fancy marble
8 Hovers
9 Husband (Fr.)
10 Favor
11 High (Lat.)
19 Ancient
21 Associate Technical Aide (abbr.)
22 Catch the breath
23 United States Code Annotated (abbr.)
24 Undesired
25 Gulf of Arabian Sea
28 Festivity
30 Warm spice
31 N. Caucasian language
32 Slushy ice
35 Kemo ____
38 Eskimo (abbr.)
42 Bone of leg
44 Arrow poison
45 Nat'l Aeronautics and Space Admin. (abbr.)
46 Building wings
47 Health resorts
48 Negatives
51 Retail liquor dealer (abbr.)
52 Long standing
54 Blacken
55 Algerian governor



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Open burning causes same day house fires

BY STAN MADDUX

Open burning has been identified as the cause of two house fire scares on the same day in northern La Porte County.

Damage to both residences during the afternoon on Friday, March 29, was limited largely from the home owners using garden hoses on the flames until the arrival of firefighters.

About 3 p.m., emergency responders were called to the 3900 block of N. Fail Road.

The property owner, Gregory Napiwocki, 42, explained he was burning some boxes in his backyard when he left the residence for about 10 minutes, according to La Porte County Police.

He told investigators nothing seemed out of the ordinary when he returned.

A short time later, though, he was inside his house when he noticed black smoke and flames on the back side of his residence, police said.

Napiwocki said various items, like a mattress underneath his deck, caught fire.

Kankakee Township Fire Chief Zach Rasiuk said the deck was destroyed but use of a garden hose helped keep the flames from spreading into the residence before the arrival of firefighters.

He said the flames, which were burning the exterior of the home close to the deck, were beginning to reach into the attic before being stopped by firefighters, who removed the trim from the edge of the structure.

"We were able to pull the soffit down and stop it before it got into the house," he said.

Rasiuk said the open burning was being done too close to the deck where a pet dog was found deceased.

Earlier that afternoon, firefighters were called to the 6500 block of W. 125 North in Coolspring Township.

Police said the homeowner, Patrick Potucek, was burning dead weeds in the rock beds surrounding his home when a nearby pine tree caught fire.

The tree quickly went up in flames and caught the house on fire.

Potucek grabbed a garden hose and began to put out the flames, police said.

Upon arrival, police said firefighters removed some siding panels to make sure the fire was completely extinguished.

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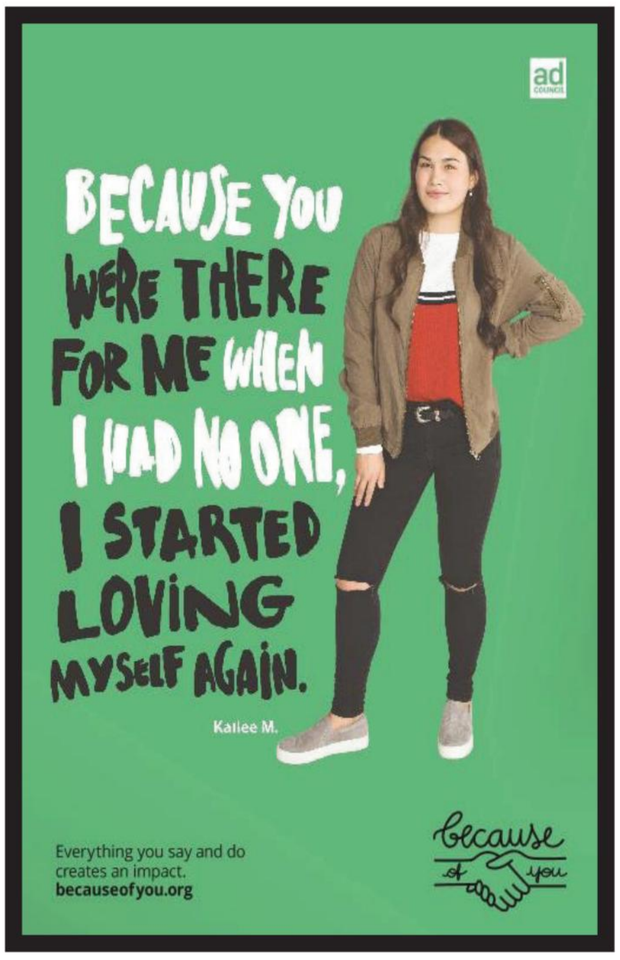
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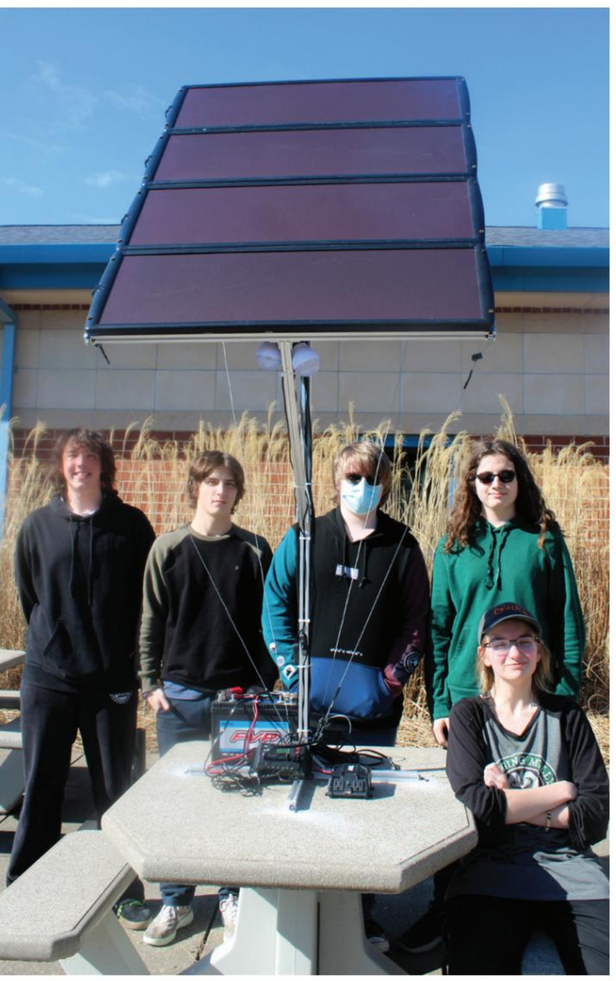

New Buffalo teams among other competitors in Kalamazoo

New Buffalo Envirothon teams headed for state

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

All three New Buffalo High School Envirothon teams have qualified for the state competition after performing well at the Kalamazoo Nature Center Regional Competition late last month.

The club team, New Buffalo Winners, which consists of students Jefrey Tertel, John Riley, Jack Lantz, Izzy Moser, Giada Pawlowski, Cora Moser, Francesca Pawlowski and Libby Lamport, took third place in the competition.

The first class team, Team New Buffalo Buzz, which consists of students Cameron Forker, Giovanni Sanchez Perez, Nicholas Messinger, Savannah Periolat, Laura Wamser, Jane Funk, Uriah Moore and Samantha Schiamanski, took fourth place.

The club team, New Buffalo Winners, which consists of students Jefrey Tertel, John Riley, Jack Lantz, Izzy Moser, Giada Pawlowski, Cora Moser, Francesca Pawlowski and Libby Lamport, took third place in the competition.

The second class team, Team Scuba Squad, with students Benita Puskinigis, Nasir Muhammad, Sage Ashdown, Ekolu Brown, Elizabeth McDonald, Spencer Siegel, Leyhem Ramirez, and Kaitlyn Rainwater, also performed well.

The state competition, which will be at Michigan State University in East Lansing, will be Wednesday through Friday, May 8-10.

Members of the New Buffalo Winners presented their community outreach project on solar charging stations, which will be used for students to charge their computers and cell phones in the courtyard this spring.

Students in the physics class began designing and engineering a solar charging station for the middle/high school courtyard last fall.

If students' computers die or their phones need to be charged, they can plug it right in and charge it off solar energy in the courtyard, Richard Eberly, science and Smart lab teacher, said.

On a sunny, mild day last month, students were gearing up to install the battery box and component box, as well as to 3-D print the shroud, on what Eberly said was the fourth design of the charging station.

To ensure it will withstand high winds, Eberly said that there will be support tethers running down to the bottom, along with some extra ones.

"It would take a very high wind to bend 80/20 aluminum but it could happen - so we put in support tethers and they're going to put in another series of tethers as well," he said.

Students had replaced the PVC pipe from their original design with the aluminum, and were now using airplane wire, senior Jack Lantz said.

To ensure it receives the optimal sunlight, students settled on the station being in place of one of the umbrellas at a picnic table, with the panel facing due south.

"We have it facing due south because with how the sun is this time - the sun kind of stays in that half of the sky the majority of the time during the school year, it only starts to move towards the northern part of the sky in the summer," he said.

Eberly said he conceived the idea to build the solar charging station from radio teacher Brian Schiller, who spotted solar powered charging stations on a recent trip to Western Michigan University. Students came up with a budget for the project and gave a proposal on the components that were needed.

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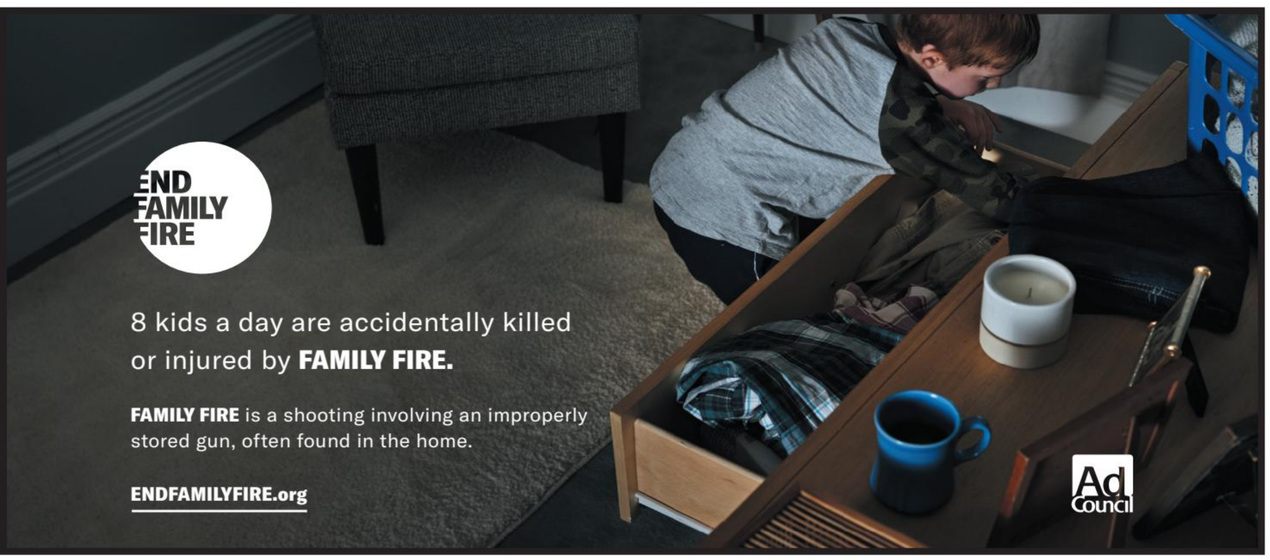
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